CLAIMS

<u>What is Claimed is:</u>

1.   An automated system for designing a probe card, comprising:

a server coupled to a network and adapted to receive design requests from prospective customers via the network;

an application operable with said server to provide the functions of:

providing a graphical interface for use by a prospective customer to enable the input of information defining wafer specifications and probe card design specifications;

receiving said information from said prospective customer;

generating a verification package from said information describing a proposed probe card design; and

communicating with said prospective customer regarding the acceptability of said proposed probe card design.

2.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said graphical interface further comprises at least one Web page.

3.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said application further provides the function of accepting an order from said prospective customer to manufacture said proposed probe card design.

4.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said application further provides the function of verifying signal integrity of said proposed probe card design.

5.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said generating function further comprises generating drawings of said proposed probe card design.

6.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said communicating function further comprises notifying said prospective customer of proposed modifications to said information.

7.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said communicating function further
5   comprises forwarding said verification package to said prospective customer.

8.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said application further provides the function of determining acceptability of said proposed probe card design.

9.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said function of accepting an order further comprises billing said prospective customer for said order.

10   10.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said verifying function further comprises simulating operation of said proposed probe card design.

11.   The system of Claim 10, wherein said verifying function further comprises performing an automated simulation of said proposed probe card design.

12.   The system of Claim 10, wherein said verifying function further comprises
15 performing a simulation based on particular specifications designated by said prospective customer.

13.　An automated method for designing a probe card, comprising:

providing a graphical interface for use by a prospective customer to enable the input of information defining wafer specifications and probe card design specifications;

5　　　　　receiving said information from said prospective customer;

generating a verification package from said information describing a proposed probe card design; and

communicating with said prospective customer regarding the acceptability of said proposed probe card design.

10　　14.　The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of providing a graphical interface further comprises delivering at least one Web page to a browser application operated by said user.

15.　The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of accepting an order from said prospective customer to manufacture said proposed probe card design.

15　　16.　The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of verifying the signal integrity of said proposed probe card design.

17.　The method of Claim 13, wherein said generating step further comprises generating drawings of said proposed probe card design.

18.　The method of Claim 13, wherein said communicating step further
20　comprises notifying said prospective customer of proposed modifications to said information.

19.　The method of Claim 13, wherein said communicating step further comprises forwarding said verification package to said prospective customer.

20.　The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of determining
25　acceptability of said proposed probe card design.

21.   The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of accepting an order further comprises billing said prospective customer for said order.

22.   The method of Claim 13, wherein said verifying step further comprises simulating operation of said proposed probe card design.

5   23.   The method of Claim 22, wherein said verifying step further comprises performing an automated simulation of said proposed probe card design.

24.   The method of Claim 22, wherein said verifying step further comprises performing a simulation based on particular specifications designated by said prospective customer.

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